

York County

south carolina

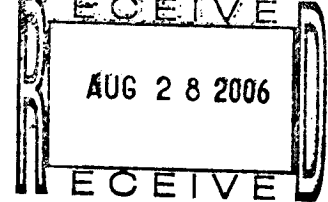
**economic
development**

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S.C. PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.



Mr. Charles Terreni
Chief Clerk Administrator
Public Service Commission of South Carolina
101 Executive Center Drive
Columbia, SC 29210

Dear Mr. Terreni:

Since it's inception in 1976, the York County Economic Development Board has assisted with the location and expansion of over two hundred new businesses for York County. Our mission is to provide capital investment and job opportunities for our citizens thereby raising the per capita income levels of York County and the State of South Carolina.

York County has experienced dramatic residential growth over the past several years and was recently named second-fastest growing county in South Carolina and in the top 100 nationwide. Recent studies in our region have concluded that the costs of community services for residential development versus industrial and commercial show a looming public infrastructure disaster associated with York County potentially becoming a bedroom community of Charlotte, NC. The acute need for tax revenue derived from commercial and business investment to offset the burdens of explosive housing is readily apparent throughout the County. In order to assure a viable future for our citizens, it is imperative that we achieve a balance of land use patterns in York County providing for an appropriate mix of residential, commercial, industrial and open space. The service demands created by new housing could potentially disrupt this tenuous balance if not offset by new business development and investment.

Often, a critical consideration for many companies who look for new or expanding business locations involve the relative costs of utilities, especially water and sewer. By comparison, documented costs for water service provided by some private providers in York County rank among the highest in the region. The intense battle for new and expanding businesses in the Charlotte region requires York County to remain competitive for utility service and cost. By consistently ranking among the highest in the region, commercial properties located within the service territory of these providers are at a comparative disadvantage.

While understanding the need to encourage profitability among any business in York County, it is important also to consider the relative burdens of unreasonable service costs for basic utilities. York County Economic Development encourages the SC Public Services Commission to exercise reasonable discretion when considering rate increase requests that may ultimately worsen our impending land use imbalance. Without remaining competitive for the benefits new and expanding businesses bring, our community's economic future is in doubt.

Thank you for your attention and if there are any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 803.802.4300 or mark.farris@yorkcountygov.com. With best regards, I am

Sincerely,

Mark Farris
Director